Shihr who forward their letters by caravan or special messenger. 205
Outward mails are disposed of in a similar manner. At Shibam I noticed a box inside the gate of the city in charge of one of the merchant's men in which letters were being placed for despatch to Aden by aeroplane. Runners can cover the distance from Mukalla to Du'an in 24 hours, and Mukalla to Shibam in three [481] days.

Harbours.

The only harbours for steamers are Mukalla and Shihr. Mukalla 504
promontory extends about 1¾ miles south-eastward. Ras Marbat is its south-western extremity, and Ras Kodar, eight cables eastward of Ras Marbat, is the southern extremity. Ras Mukalla, about three cables north-eastward of Ras Kodar, is the eastern extremity of the promontory.

Mukalla bay is the north-eastern part of the bight between Fuwa and Ras Marbat. About 1½ miles north-westward of Ras Marbat are two small bays, separated by a projection, extending about three cables south-westward, on which stands part of Mukalla town. The western of these two bays is the more frequented by boats. The eastern bay is seldom used owing to the swell which rolls in during the north-east monsoon. The shore bank in Mukalla bay, on which anchorage can be obtained, extends about half-a-mile offshore near the town, increasing westward to a width of nearly a mile off Fuwa. A stone jetty close to the Customs House is the usual landing place. There is no lighthouse, but a single lamp fixed on a pole in a small boat gives the only guiding light into the harbour. During the south-west monsoon dhows anchor at Bandar Burum where there is anchorage in depths of from five to seven fathoms, good holding ground, south-eastward of Burum village, but a ground swell rolls in.

Shihr roadstead is open with anchorage in depths of from 7 to 12 fathoms, sand and shells, from seven cables to one mile offshore.

Besides Mukalla, Burum, and Shihr the dhow harbours along the Hadhramaut coast are: Bandar Ruweini, about two miles northward from Ras Mukalla, has depths of from four to six fathoms, and native craft shelter here during the south-west monsoon; Hami, where there is anchorage off Hami village in depths of seven to eight fathoms about a mile offshore; Sharma bay, with a good anchorage in depths of from four to five fathoms; Al Qarn, an anchorage where small vessels can lie safely in depths of from two to four fathoms (Sharma bay and Al Qarn lie close to the town of Dis; Al Qarn is the more frequented harbour); and Ras Qus'eir, a mile southward of Qus'eir, where there is anchorage, but without shelter, in depths of from 12 to 14 fathoms.

Shipping.

There are two Lines calling frequently but not regularly. Usually 505
each calls twice a month. One is the Halal Shipping Company—Agent, Yusuf Sherif; and the other Cowasjee Dinshaw and Bros.—